

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a mobile agent object to dynamically extend its capabilities, the method comprising:

executing ~~[[a]]~~ the mobile agent object in a mobile-agent runtime environment in a host computing environment; and

~~installing-configuring the mobile agent object to install~~ a service object to be executable in the mobile-agent runtime environment.

2. (Previously Submitted) A method, comprising:

accessing, with a first host computing environment, a second host computing environment having a mobile-agent runtime environment; and

generating in the first host computing environment a first mobile-agent object operable to navigate to the second host computing environment and install a service object executable in the mobile-agent runtime environment.

3. (Previously Submitted) The method of claim 2 wherein the first mobile-agent object is further operable to discover available services associated with the mobile-agent runtime environment.

4. (Previously Submitted) The method of claim 2, further comprising generating in the first host computing environment a second mobile-agent object operable to navigate to the second host computing environment, discover available

services associated with the mobile-agent runtime environment, and provide to the first host computing environment information associated with the available services.

5. (Previously Submitted) The method of claim 2 wherein the first mobile-agent object includes the service object.

6. (Previously Submitted) The method of claim 2 wherein the first mobile-agent object includes at least one service module operable to realize a function of the service object.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

a first instruction set that when executed by a computing device causes the data structure to navigate from a first host computing environment to a second host computing environment having a mobile-agent runtime environment; and

a second instruction set that when executed by a computing device causes the installation of a service object executable in the mobile-agent runtime environment.

8. (Previously Submitted) The medium of claim 7 wherein the data structure further comprises at least one service module operable to realize a function of the service object and executable in the mobile-agent runtime environment.

9. (Previously Submitted) The medium of claim 8 wherein the second instruction set, when executed, further causes the installation of the at least one service module in the mobile-agent runtime environment.

10. (Previously Submitted) The medium of claim 7 wherein the data structure further comprises the service object.

11. (Previously Submitted) The medium of claim 7 wherein the data structure further comprises a runtime-data set associated with the service object.

12. (Previously Submitted) The medium of claim 7 wherein the data structure further comprises a third instruction set that when executed enables the use of an API associated with the second host computing environment.

13. (New) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a computing device perform the method of claim 2.

14. (New) A method of transferring the instructions of claim 13 from at least one first computer to at least one second computer connected to the at least one first computer through a communication medium, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) accessing, on the at least one first computer, the instructions; and
- (b) transferring the instructions from the at least one first computer to the at least one second computer through the communications medium.